



April 13, 2005



Attleboro man is charged, detained on a federal firearms charge

A federal magistrate judge in Providence has ordered **Gary W. Miller**, 45, of Attleboro, Massachusetts, detained on a federal charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm. A federal grand jury last week returned an indictment charging Miller with that offense.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, Thomas H. Wlodyka, Resident Agent in Charge of the Providence Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Westerly Police Chief Edward A. Mello jointly announced a one-count indictment, which the grand jury returned on April 6 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

The indictment alleges that Miller, who has been previously convicted of a felony, was illegally in possession of a .357 revolver on February 26.

Miller, whose last known address is 35 Phillips Street, Attleboro, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment yesterday before Magistrate Judge David L. Martin, who ordered him detained. Miller, who has also lived in Westerly, also faces state charges.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The maximum penalty for a felon in possession of a firearm is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

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ATF and **Westerly Police** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee is prosecuting it federally after a joint review of the case by federal and state prosecutors. The joint review of firearms cases is part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 600 years in federal prison.

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